

Remarks

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested.

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 1, 4-9 and 42-43 are pending in the application, with claim 1 being the sole independent claims. Claims 12-16 and 40-41 are cancelled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter therein. New claims 42-43 are added. Claim 1 is amended herein to incorporate the subject matter of allowable claim 14. These changes involve canceling claims as well as placing all the claims in condition for allowance. These changes are believed to introduce no new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested.

Based on the above amendment and the following remarks, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 2 and 4-9 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 5,041,319 to Becker et al. ("Becker") in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,848,566 to Havens et al. ("Havens") and U.S. Patent No. 6,090,479 to Shirato et al. ("Shirato").

Applicant has amended claim 1 to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claim 14, and cancelled claim 14. Since the Examiner has indicated that claim 14 includes allowable subject matter, claim 1 is patentable as amended. Claims 2 and 4-9 and new claims 42 and 43 depend from and add features to claim 1, and thus are patentable for at least the same reason as claim 1.

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Applicants therefore respectfully request the withdrawal of this 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection.

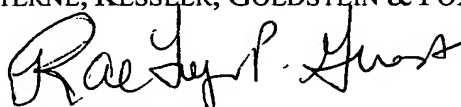
Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicant believes that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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